(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Home Affairs has sent a proposal to the Ministry of Defence expressing its willingness to handover monitoring the coastal line of the Country to Coast Guards;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs;

(c) whether any consultations have been made in this regard between the two Ministries; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the consultations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Home Affairs has sent a proposal for strengthening of the Coast Guard for creating additional capabilities to enable it to take over the responsibility of joint coastal patrolling of Gujarat and Maharashtra coast. The proposal involves establishing Coast Guard stations and acquisition of Interceptors boats. The proposal is presently under examination of Ministry of Defence.

Indigenously produced torpedo

4198. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has completed successful trials on the first indigenously produced torpedo; and

(b) does the Indian torpedo place us in any advantage *vis-a-vis* Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Advanced light weight torpedo has been successfully developed by DRDO, through indigenous efforts and it has been evaluated by the Indian Navy. The pre-production units have been realised by Bharat Dynamic Ltd.

(b) Being the state-of-the-art torpedo, Indian Navy will have definite advantage on deployment.

Ban on MIG flights over residential areas

†4199. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

†Orginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the reasons behind the continuously occurring accidents of MIG aircrafts;

(b) the number of citizens killed and injured alongwith the loss of property in MIG accidents during the last year;

(c) whether Government are considering to impose ban on flying of MIG aircrafts over the residential areas; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Human Error (Aircrew), Technical Defects and Bird Hits are the primary reasons of MIG crashes.

(b) Ten civilians were killed and fourteen injured during the financial year 2002-2003. The loss of property assessed in these accidents amounts to Rs. 92,15,197/- approximately. In case of two accidents the losses are yet to be assessed.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, flying over populated area is normally avoided. The location of fighter assets is based on tactical and strategic requirements designed to meet the security of the nation.

Shifting of population to safer areas

†4200. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the media report captioned, "Sarkar ke pass koi Doorgami Yojana hi nahin";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the details for the programme Government are having to shift the population living within the stipulated distance of present army bases, oil depots and power plants at the earliest alongwith army and setting up of ammunition bases thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the likely impact of the same in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The Government is aware of the media report regarding Defence and other establishments surrounded by populated areas.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.